



SEXUAL ASSAULT IN ALASKA

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August 3, 2009
Alaska State Legislature
Senate Judiciary Committee



JUSTICE CENTER RESEARCH

- **Data Overview:**
 - Uniform Crime Reports, State & Local Data
- **Key Results from UAA JC Research:**
 - SANE, AST, APD, DOL Studies
- **Key Implications from UAA JC Research**
- **Additional Research Needs**
 - Victimization Survey, Statewide Surveillance System



GRANT FUNDING



- **Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault:**

- 2003-WF-BX-0201, 2004-WF-AX-0033



- **U.S. Department of Justice:**

- 2000-RH-CX-K039, 2004-WG-BX-0003, 2005-WG-BX-0011, 2007-WG-R-007



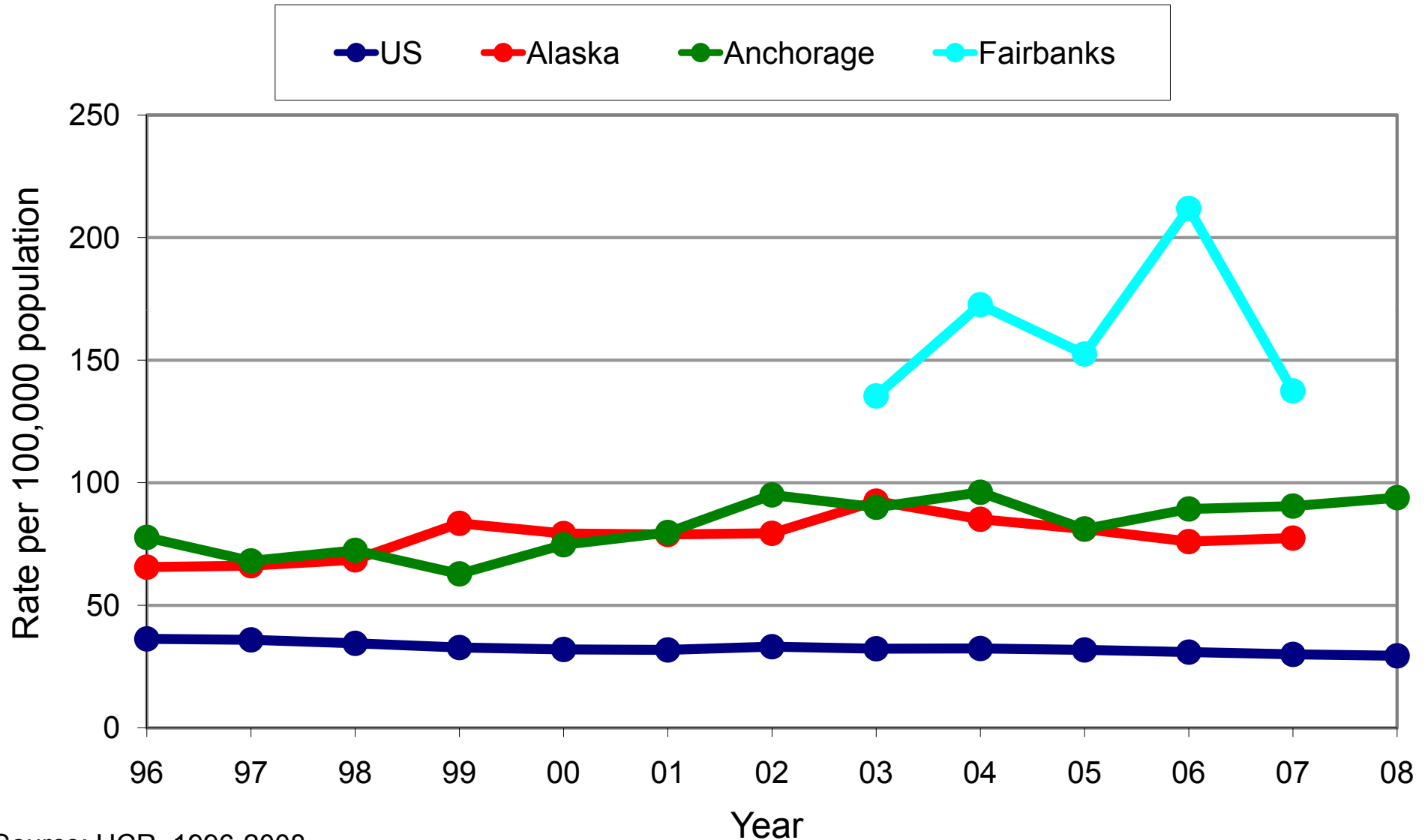
- **University of Alaska Anchorage:**

- UAA Faculty Development Grant

Points of view in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the U.S. Department of Justice, or the University of Alaska Anchorage.



UCR FORCIBLE RAPE STATISTICS



Source: UCR, 1996-2008



UCR FORCIBLE RAPE STATISTICS

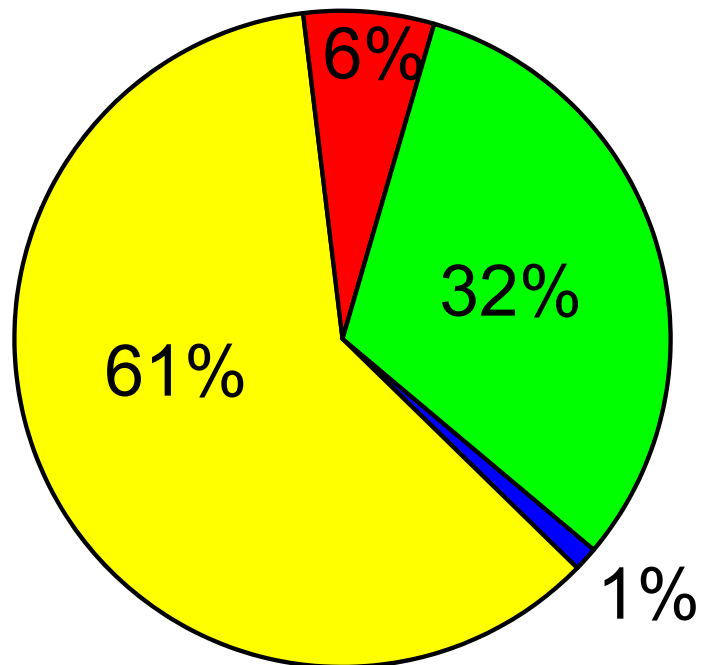
	2003-2007 Average	Factor Difference
U.S.	31.5	
Alaska	82.4	x 2.62
Anchorage	89.4	x 2.84
Fairbanks	162.0	x 5.14

Source: UCR, 2003-2007

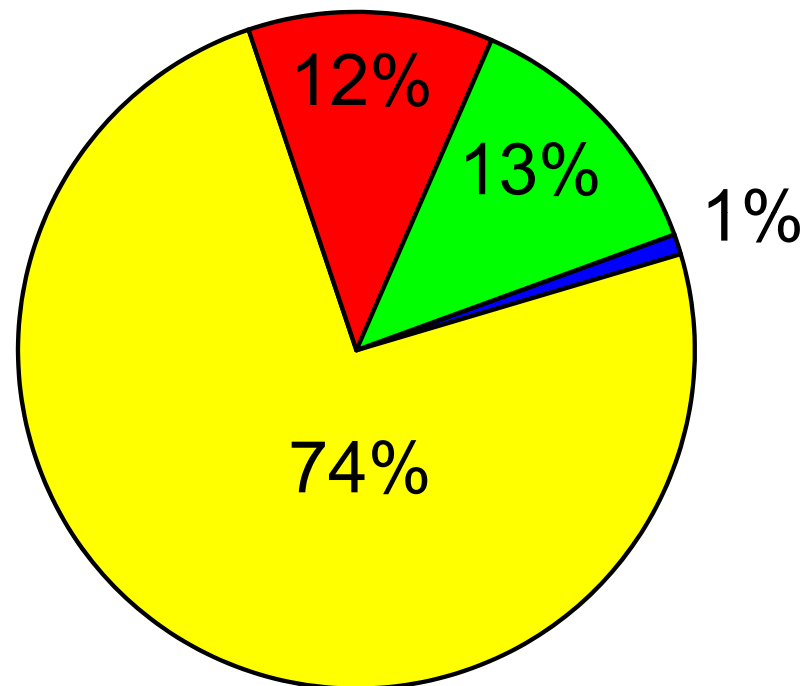


VIOLENT CRIME REPORTS

US



Alaska

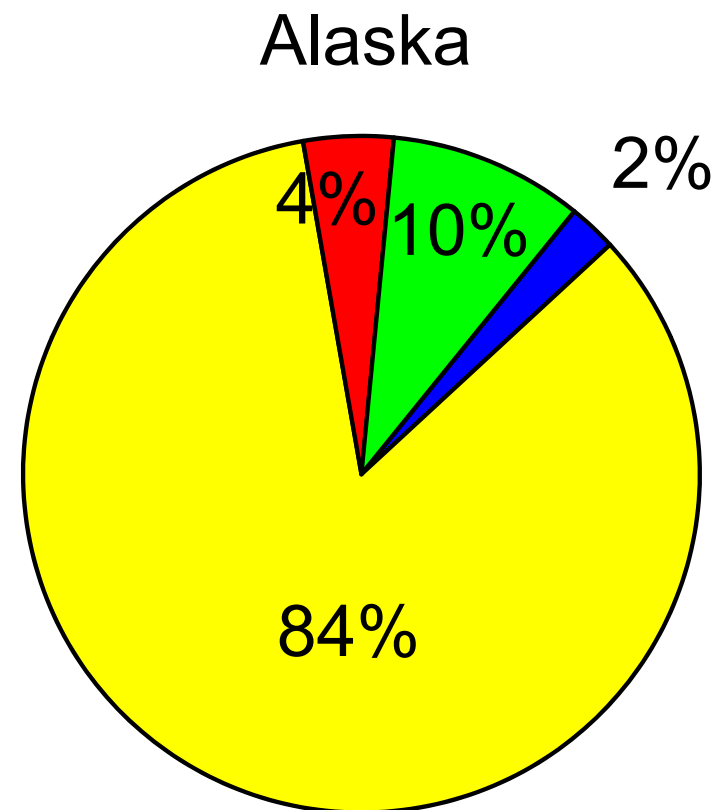
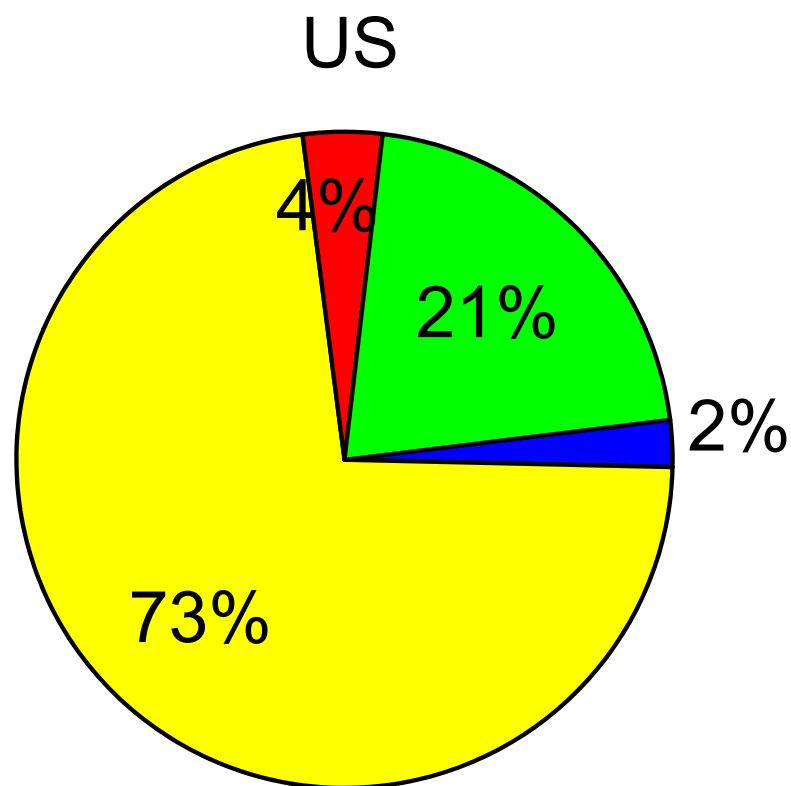


■ Murder ■ Assault ■ Rape ■ Robbery

Source: UCR, 2007



VIOLENT CRIME ARRESTS



■ Murder ■ Assault ■ Rape ■ Robbery

Source: UCR, 2007



RATE RANKINGS

Year	Highest Rate per 100,000 Women		To Be Below Highest Rate, Decrease # of Forcible Rapes	
	State	Rate	From → To	By
2002	AK	164.6	511 → 327	184 (36%)
2003	AK	190.6	600 → 334	266 (44%)
2004	AK	175.4	558 → 346	212 (38%)
2005	AK	167.6	538 → 344	194 (36%)
2006	AK	157.3	509 → 356	153 (30%)
2007	AK	161.0	529 → 335	194 (32%)
Average		169.4	541 → 340	201 (36%)

Source: UCR & US Census, 2002-2007



STANDARD UCR CAUTIONS

- **UCR Statistics exclude:**
 - Rapes not reported to law enforcement,
 - Statutory rapes,
 - Incapacitated rapes,
 - Rapes with male victims,
 - Other sex offenses,
 - Rapes with more serious offenses (homicide).
- **Reporting agencies vary by year.**
- **Rankings are invalid assessments (ignore variables that affect crime).**



VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS

- **No data on forcible rape or sexual assault for Alaska...**
 - Samples often too small
 - No forcible rape / sexual assault questions
- **True victimization rates are unknown**
- **Factors that affect reporting are unknown**
- **Most vulnerable populations remain hidden**



COST OF VICTIMIZATION

- **Victim costs are \$114,517 per victimization**
 - Costs include tangible & intangible victim costs
 - Costs exclude all offender & justice costs
- **Total victim costs in 2007:**
 - \$60.6 Million in Alaska, \$29.4 Million in Anchorage, \$4.9 Million in Fairbanks
- **Reducing the rate by 36% would save:**
 - \$21.8 Million in Alaska, \$10.6 Million in Anchorage, \$1.8 Million in Fairbanks

Source: Philips and Votey (1981), Cohen (1988), NAS (1994), Miller et al. (1996), UCR (2007)



STATE AND LOCAL DATA

- **Alaska SANE Study**
- **Alaska State Trooper Studies**
- **Anchorage Police Department Studies**
- **Alaska Department of Law Studies**

<http://justice.uaa.alaska.edu/vaw>



STUDIES ONLY INCLUDE...

- **Offenses reported to law enforcement**
 - 52% of sexual assaults are not reported to law enforcement (BJS 2003); % in Alaska is unknown
- **Information from official reports**
 - Document report characteristics rather than offense characteristics; offense characteristics often remain unknown, particularly when victims used alcohol
- **Data up to 2006**
 - Need time to obtain legal resolutions



INTERPRETING RESULTS

- **If rates are higher among 15-19 year olds:**
 - 15-19 year olds have higher victimization rates,
 - 15-19 year olds have higher reporting rates, or
 - 15-19 year olds have higher victimization and reporting rates.
- **If 15-19 year olds are less likely to use alcohol:**
 - 15-19 year olds may just be less likely to report alcohol use.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS...

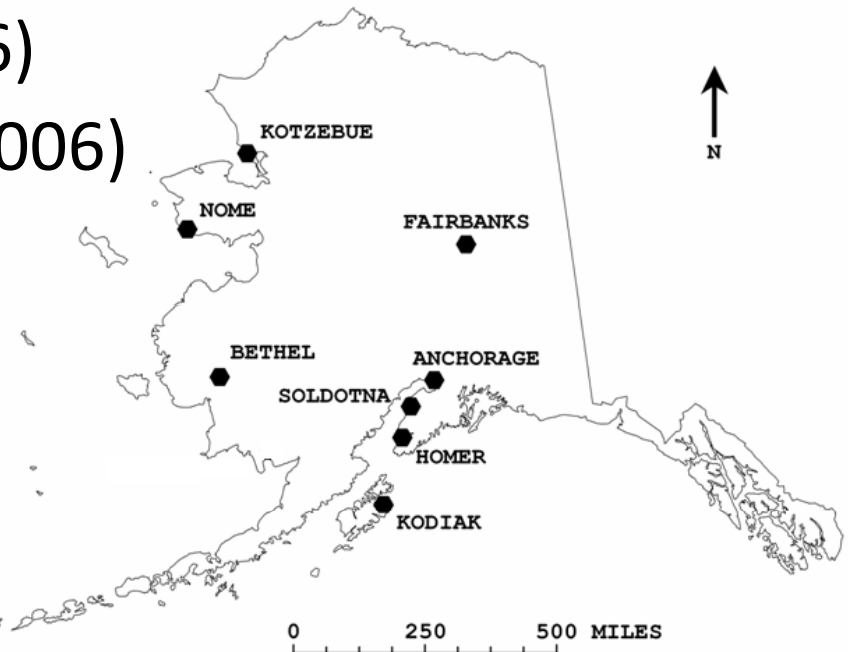
- **Difficult when victimization and reporting differences cannot be specified**
- **Higher victimization rates:**
 - Failing to protect a segment of the population
 - Ultimately a sign of failure
- **Higher reporting rates:**
 - Effective responses for a segment of the population
 - Ultimately a sign of success



ALASKA SANE STUDY

- **Collected 1,699 SANE records:**

- 1,383 from Anchorage (1996-2004)
- 105 from Bethel (2005-2006)
- 144 from Fairbanks (2005-2006)
- 9 from Homer (2005)
- 4 from Kodiak (2005)
- 21 from Kotzebue (2005)
- 19 from Nome (2005)
- 14 from Soldotna (2005)

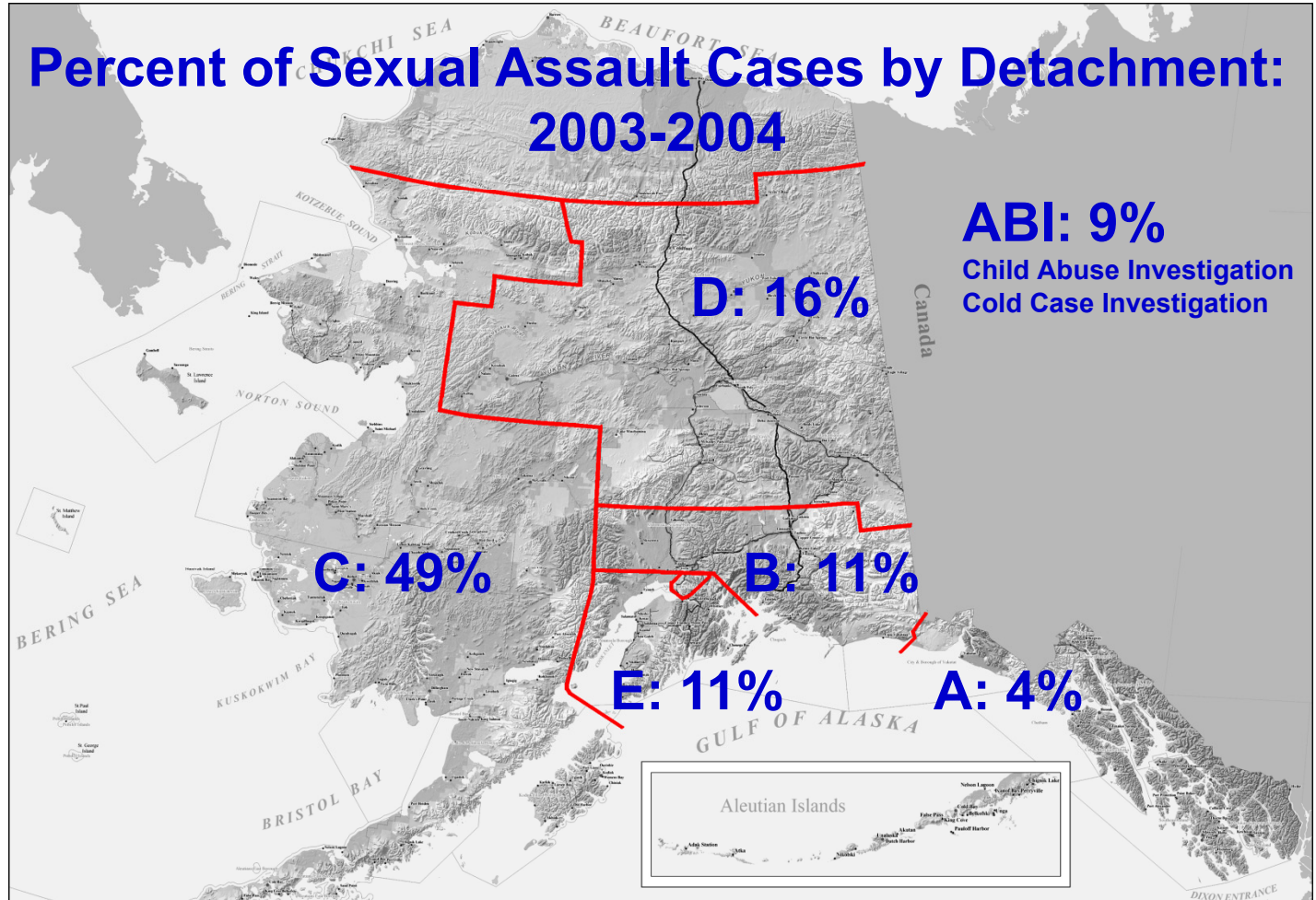




ALASKA STATE TROOPER STUDY



**989 reports
(2003-04)**



Note: this study did NOT include offenses reported to local or municipal departments



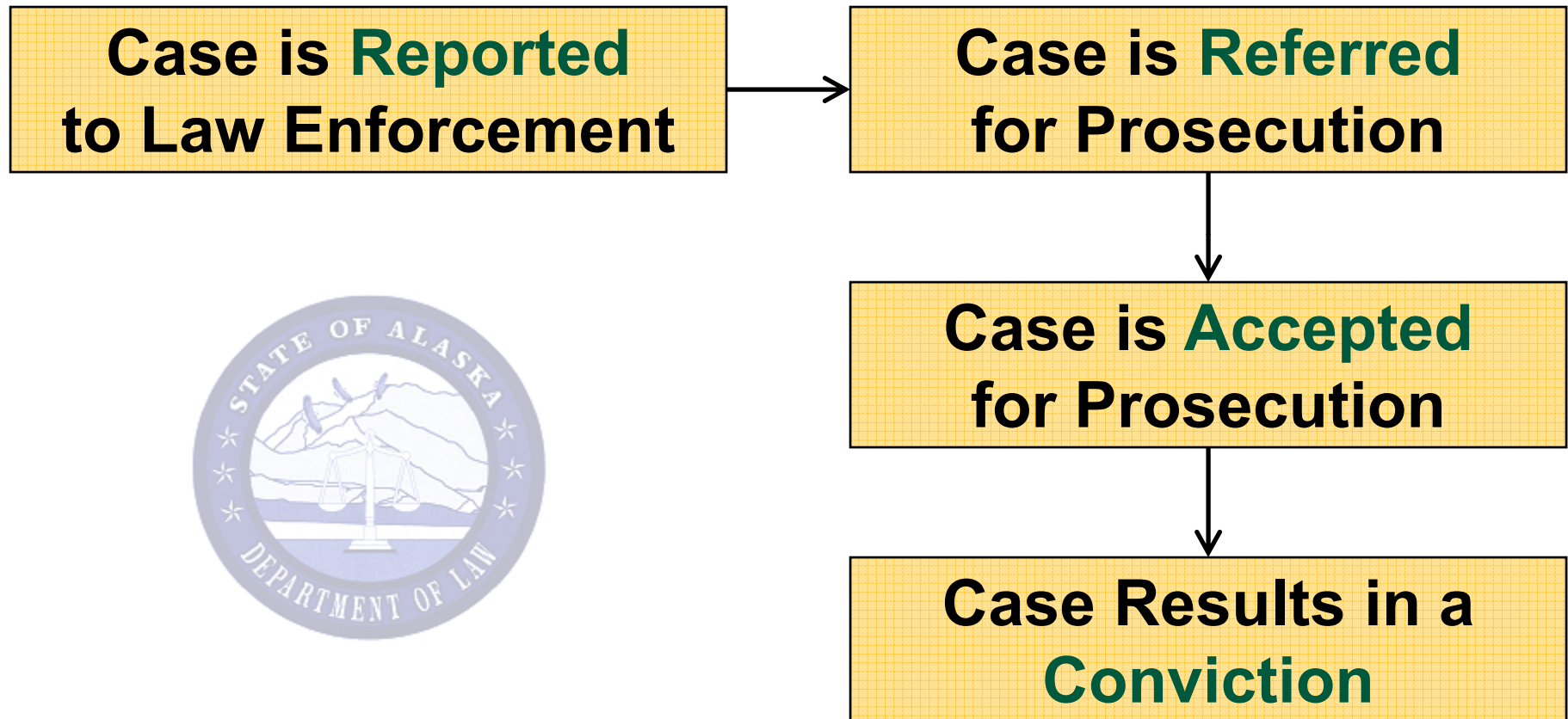
ANCHORAGE PD STUDIES



- **Sexual Assault Study I**
 - 2000 & 2001 reports
- **Sexual Assault Study II**
 - 2002 & 2003 reports
- **Sexual Assault Study III**
 - 2004 & 2005 reports



DEPARTMENT OF LAW STUDIES



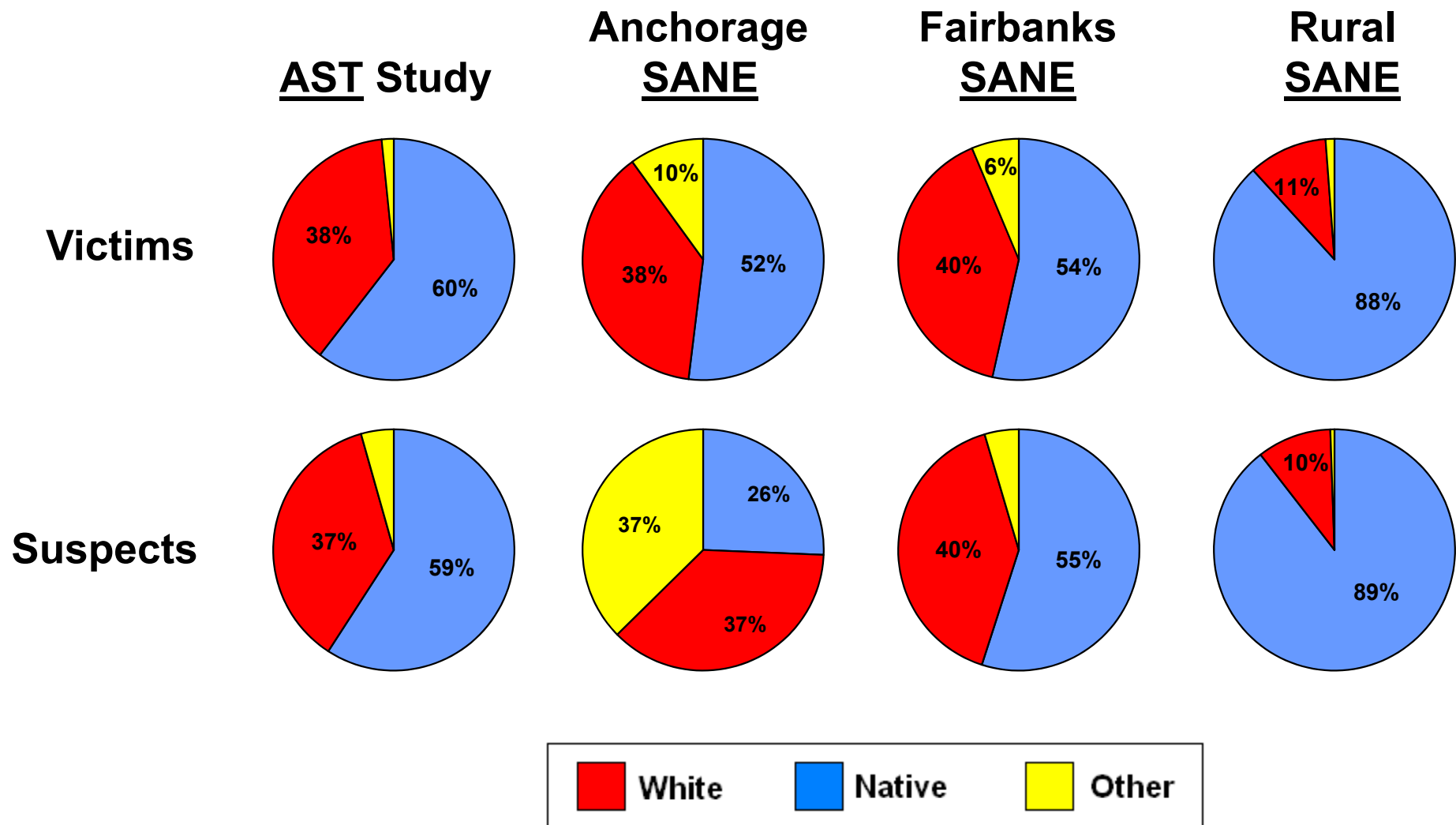


KEY RESULTS

- **Victim and Suspect Characteristics:**
 - Race
 - Age
 - Alcohol Use
- **Legal Resolutions:**
 - Referral
 - Acceptance
 - Conviction



RACE

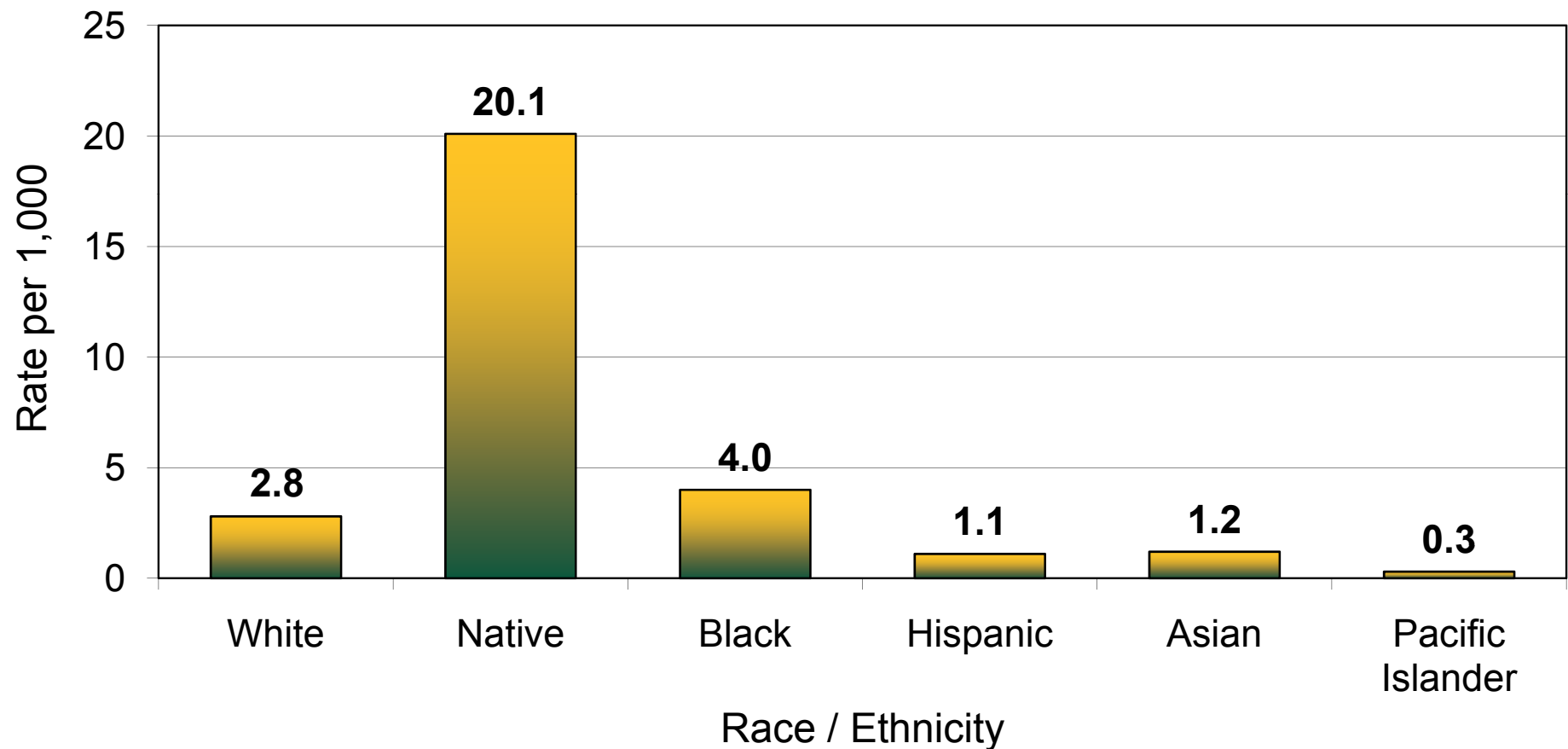


Source: AST SA Study & AK SANE Study



Victim Race in APD Studies

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Victim Race

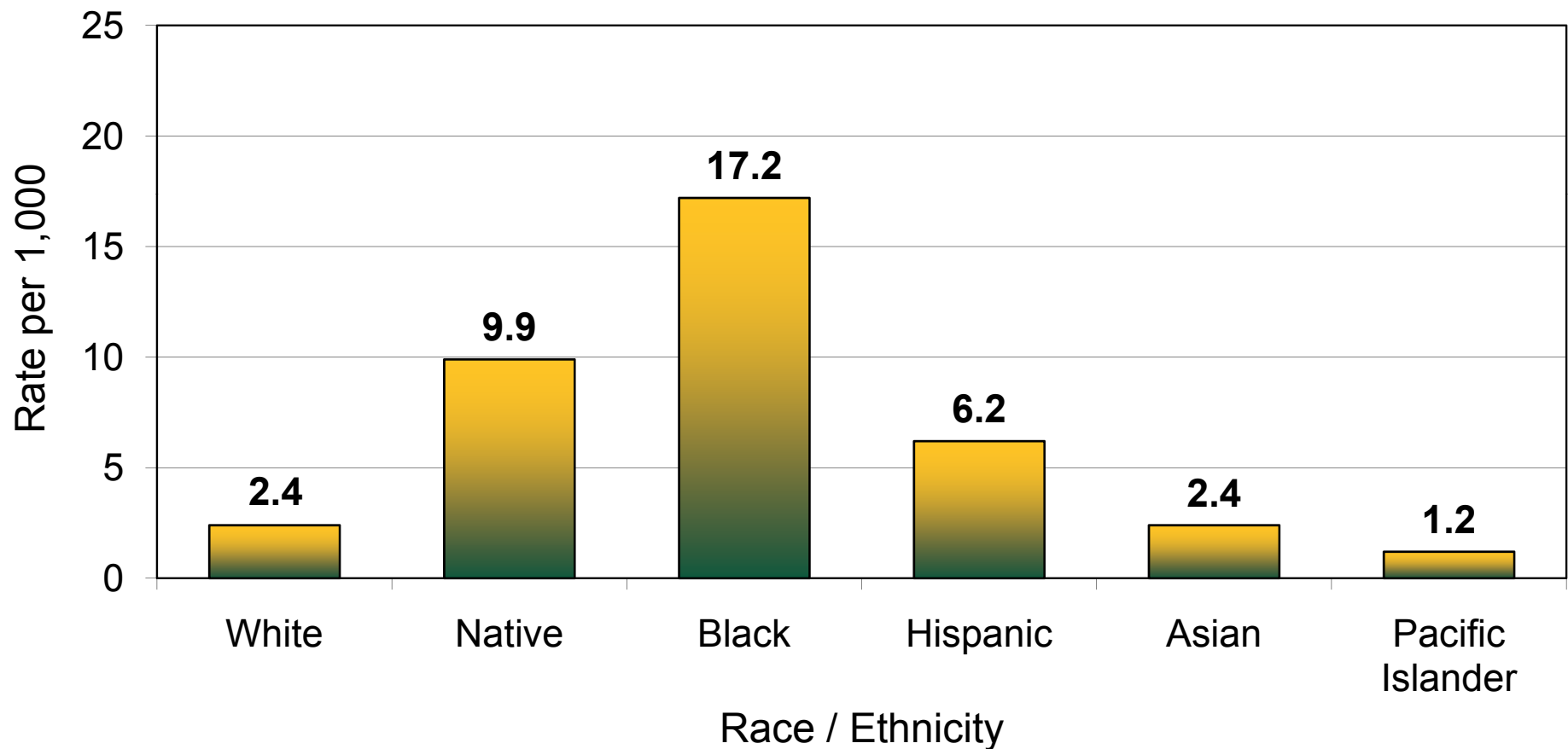


Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)



Suspect Race in APD Studies

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD by Suspect Race



Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)



VICTIM & SUSPECT RACE

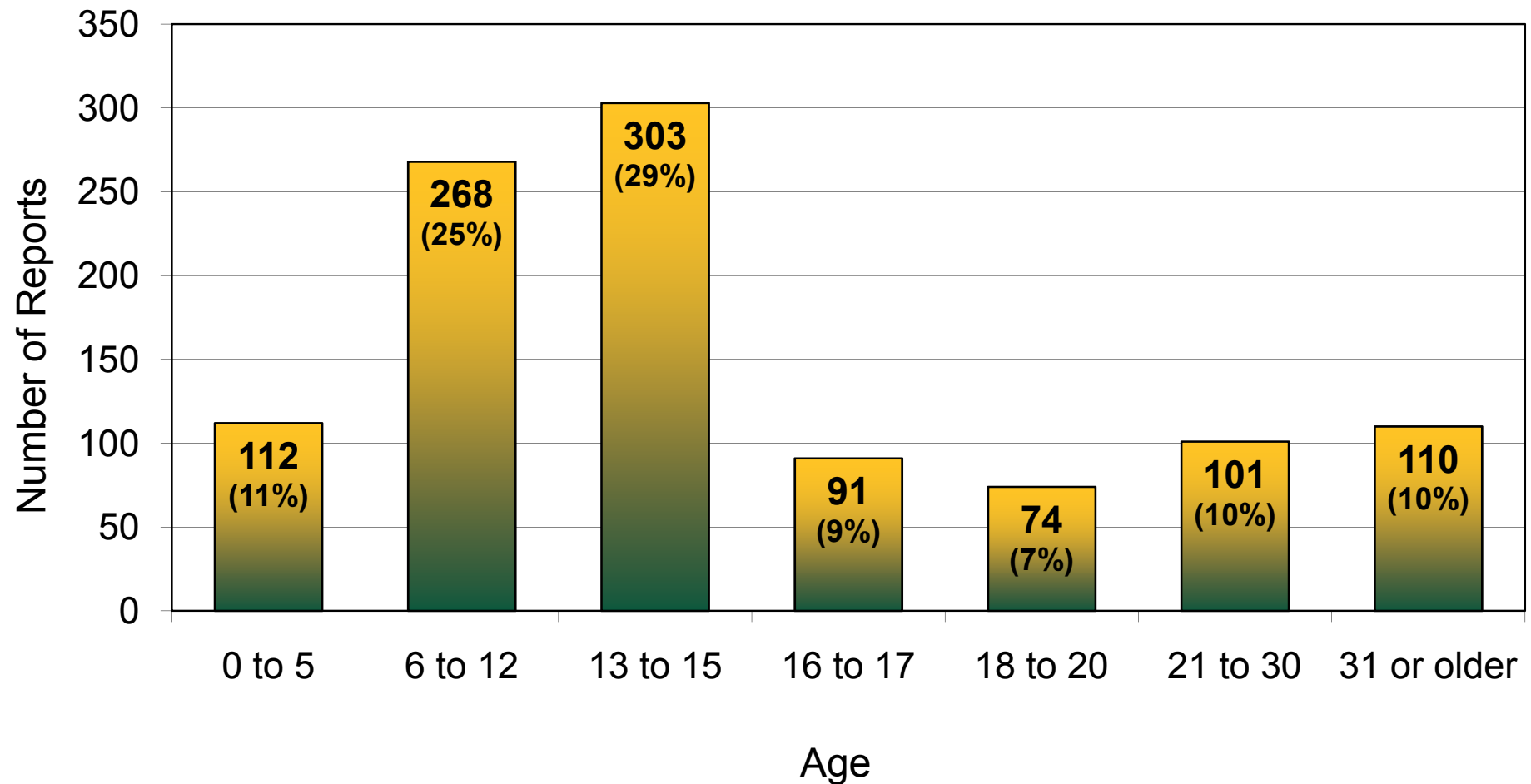
% of Suspects Who Assault
Someone of Their Same Race

	All Suspects	White Suspects	Native Suspects	Other Suspects
APD SA Study	52%	66%	79%	15%
SANE Study	53%	53%	88%	15%
AST SA Study	87%	86%	94%	7%



AGE OF AST VICTIMS

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Victim Age

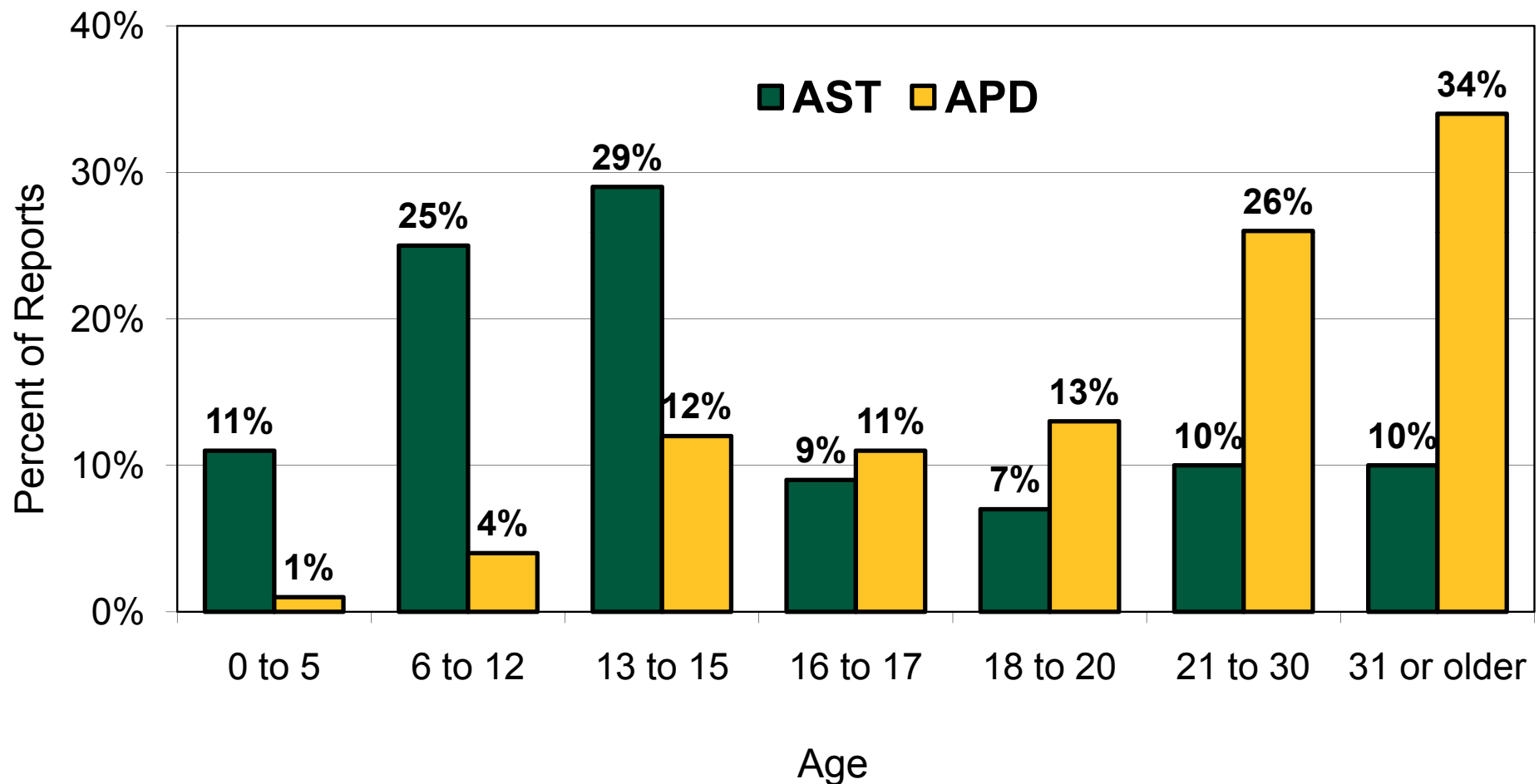


Source: AST SA Study



AGE OF AST & APD VICTIMS

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported by Victim Age

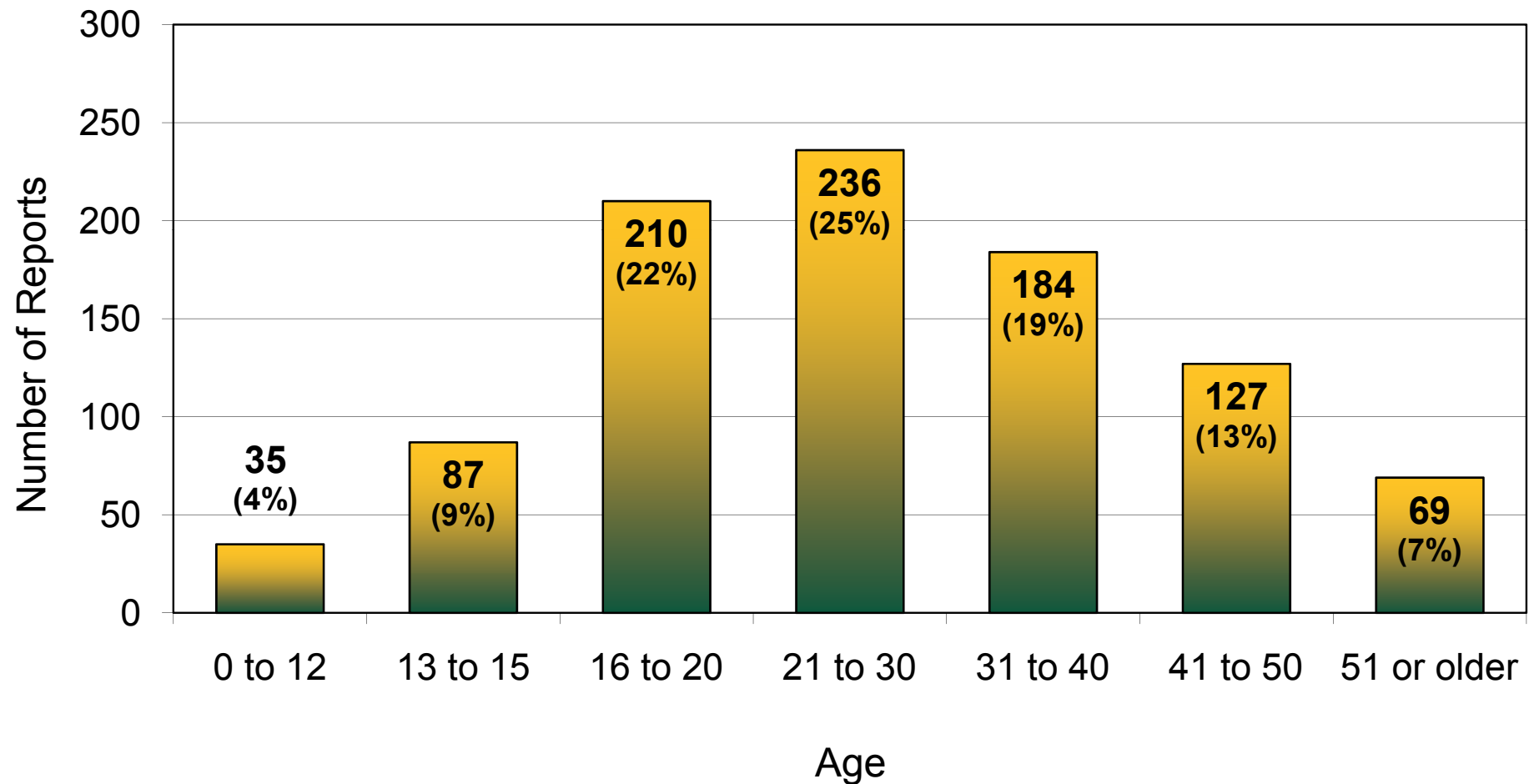


Source: AST SA Study & APD Studies



AGE OF AST SUSPECTS

Number of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST by Suspect Age

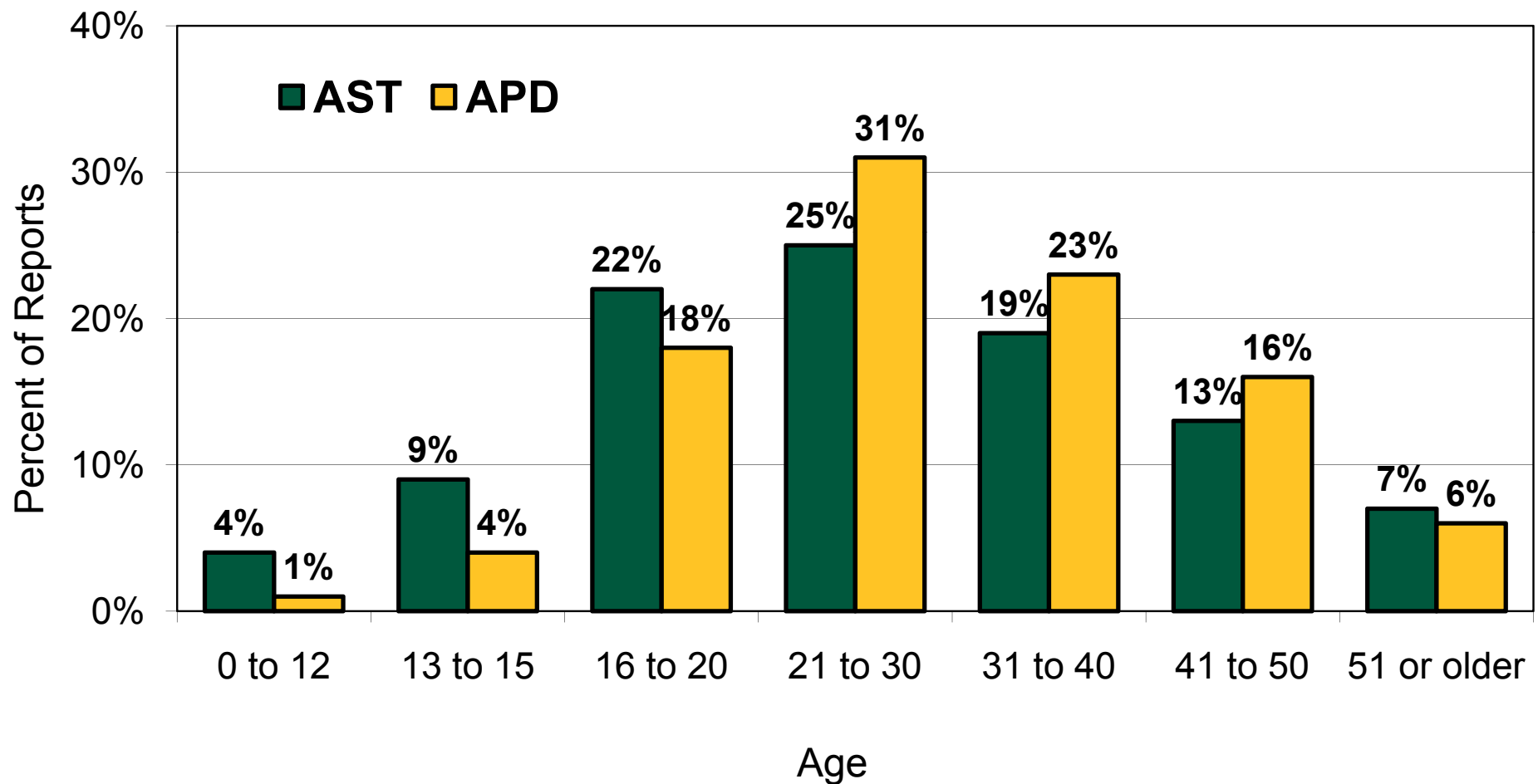


Source: AST SA Study



AGE OF AST & APD SUSPECTS

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported by Suspect Age



Source: AST SA Study & APD Studies



AST SUSPECT & VICTIM AGE

Five Most Common Age Combinations in AST Sexual Assault Cases (48%):

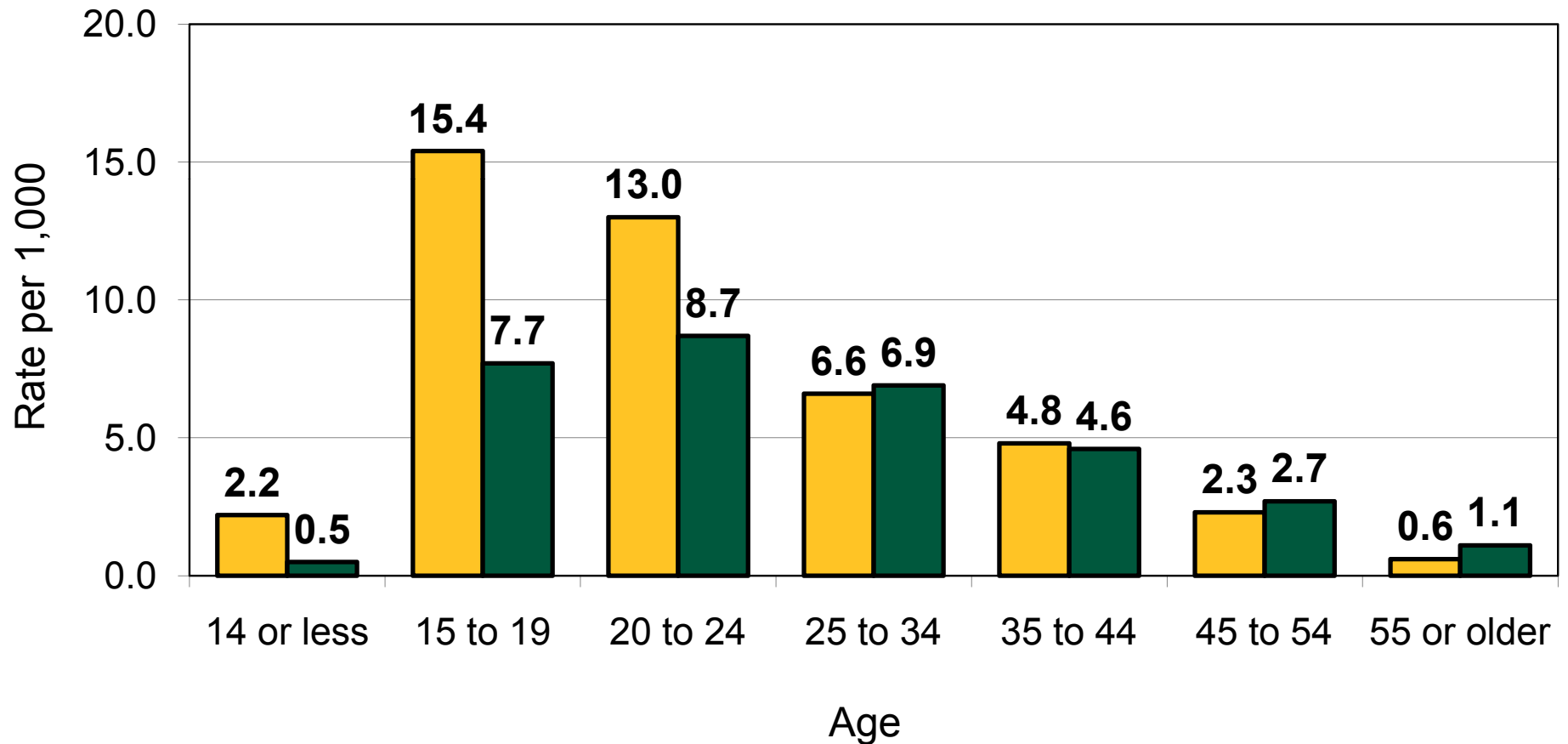
1. Victims 0-12 years old, suspects 31+ years old
2. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 16-20 years old
3. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 21-30 years old
4. Victims 13-15 years old, suspects 31+ years old
5. Victims 31+ years old, suspects 31+ years old

Source: AST SA Study



APD SUSPECT & VICTIM AGE

Four-Year Rates of Sexual Assaults Reported to APD for **Victims** and **Suspects**



Source: APD Studies (2000-2003)



YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY

Sexual Risk Behaviors & Violence

Alaska

U.S.

% ever had sexual intercourse

45%

48%

% had recent intercourse (past 3 months)

31%

35%

If recent intercourse, % used alcohol/drugs

22%

23%

% physically forced to have intercourse

9%

8%

Source: 2007 YRBS; includes public school students with parental consent; excludes youth who dropped out of school and students who were enrolled in English as a second language classes, special education classes, correspondence schools, group home schools and correctional schools.



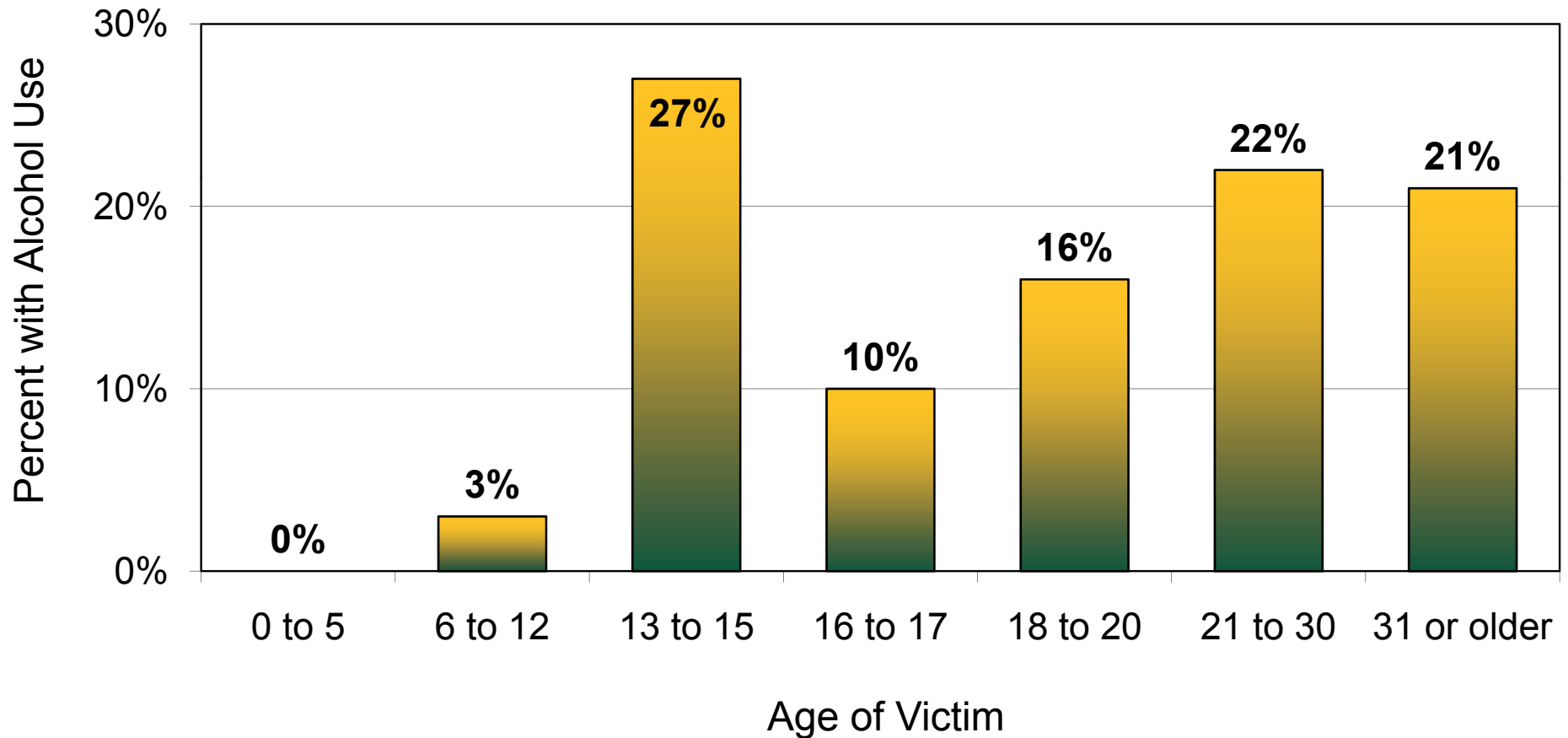
ALCOHOL USE

- **APD Studies:**
 - Every year, over 60% of victims use alcohol,
 - Over 70% of suspects use alcohol.
- **AK SANE Study:**
 - Over 65% of patients used alcohol, except in Homer and Soldotna,
 - Over 75% of suspects used alcohol, in every site.
- **AST Study:**
 - 27% of sexual assault victims used alcohol,
 - 43% of suspects used alcohol.



ALCOHOL USE BY VICTIM AGE

Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST with Victim Alcohol Use, by Victim Age

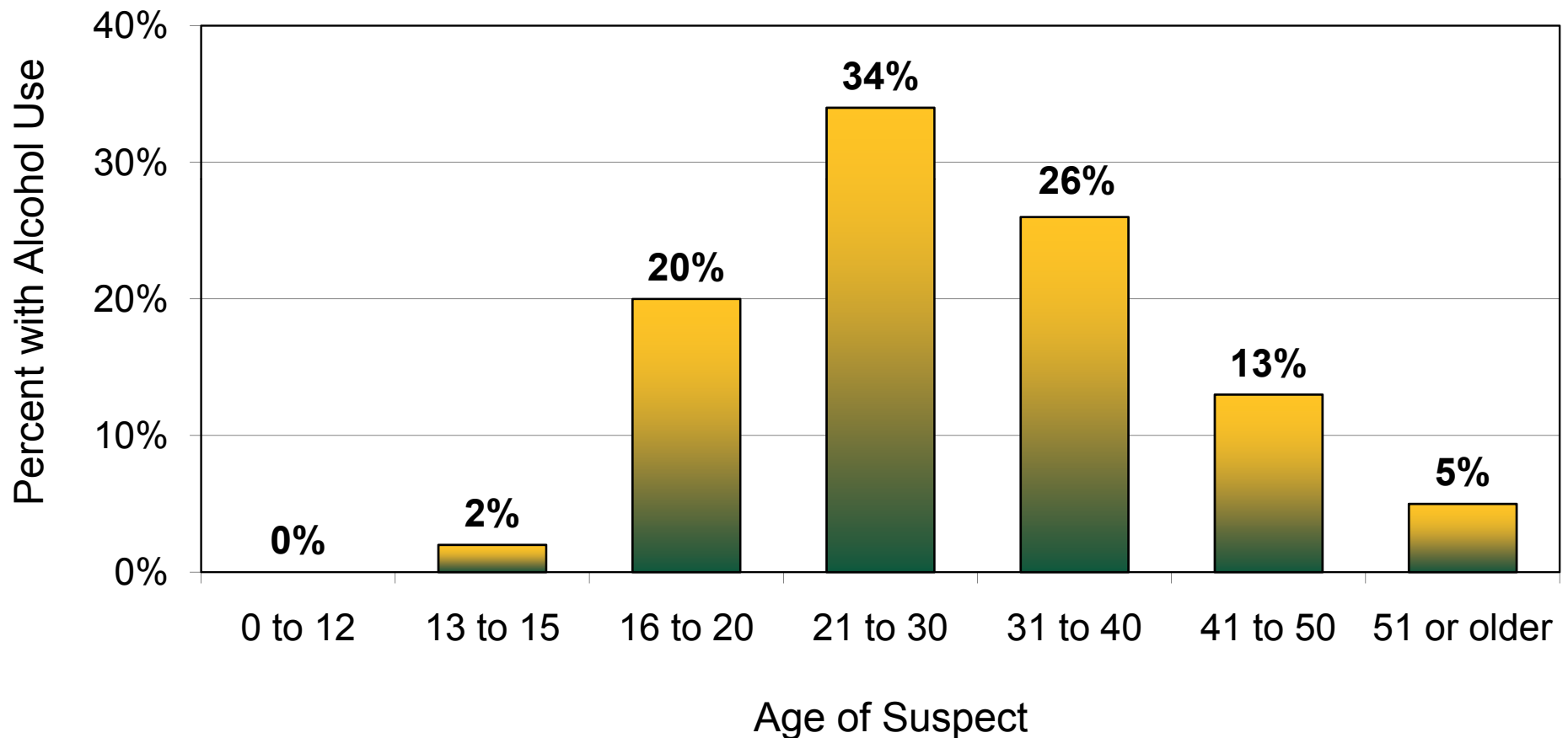


Source: AST SA Study



ALCOHOL USE BY SUSPECT AGE

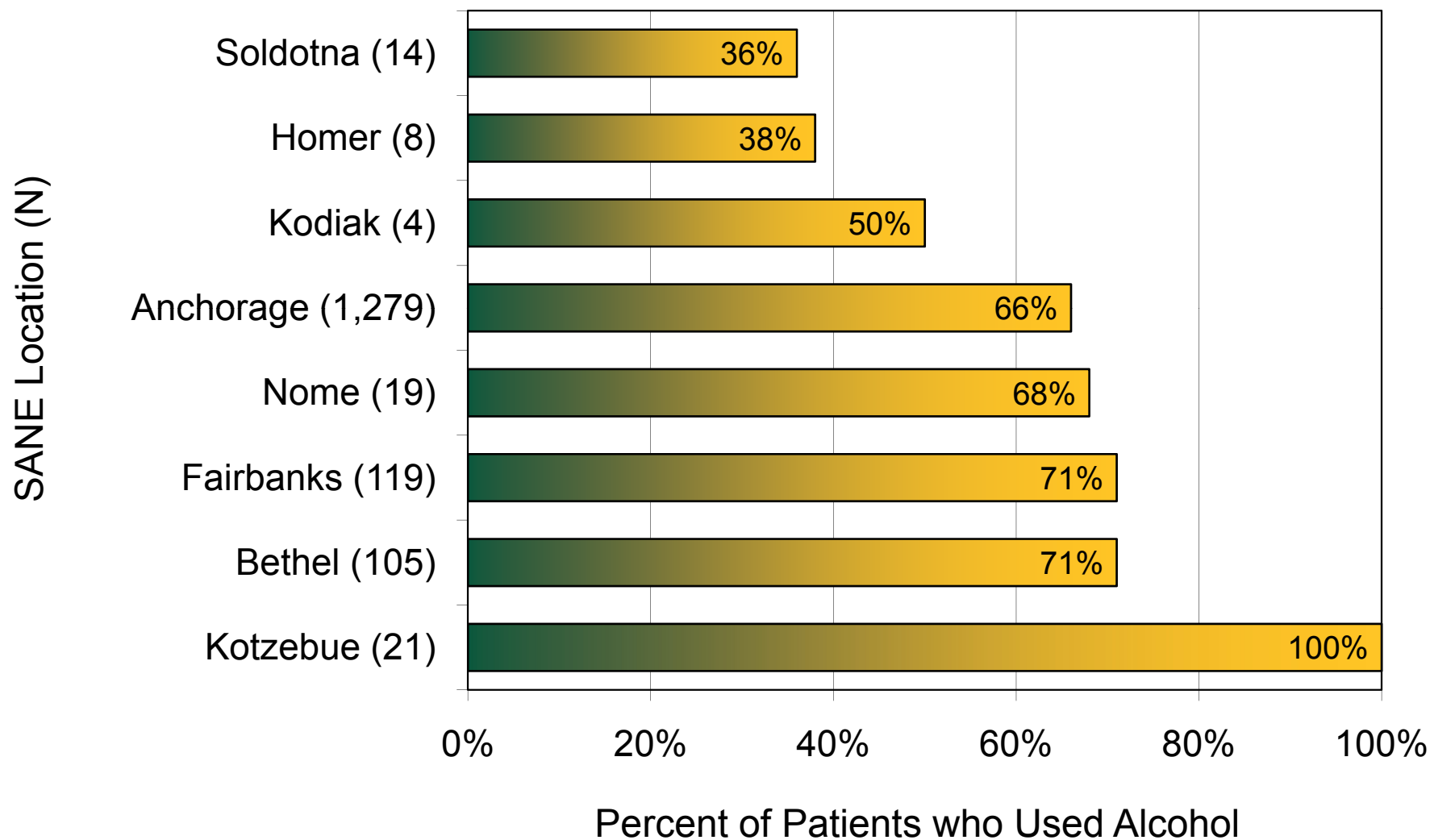
Percent of Sexual Assaults Reported to AST with Suspect Alcohol Use, by Suspect Age



Source: AST SA Study



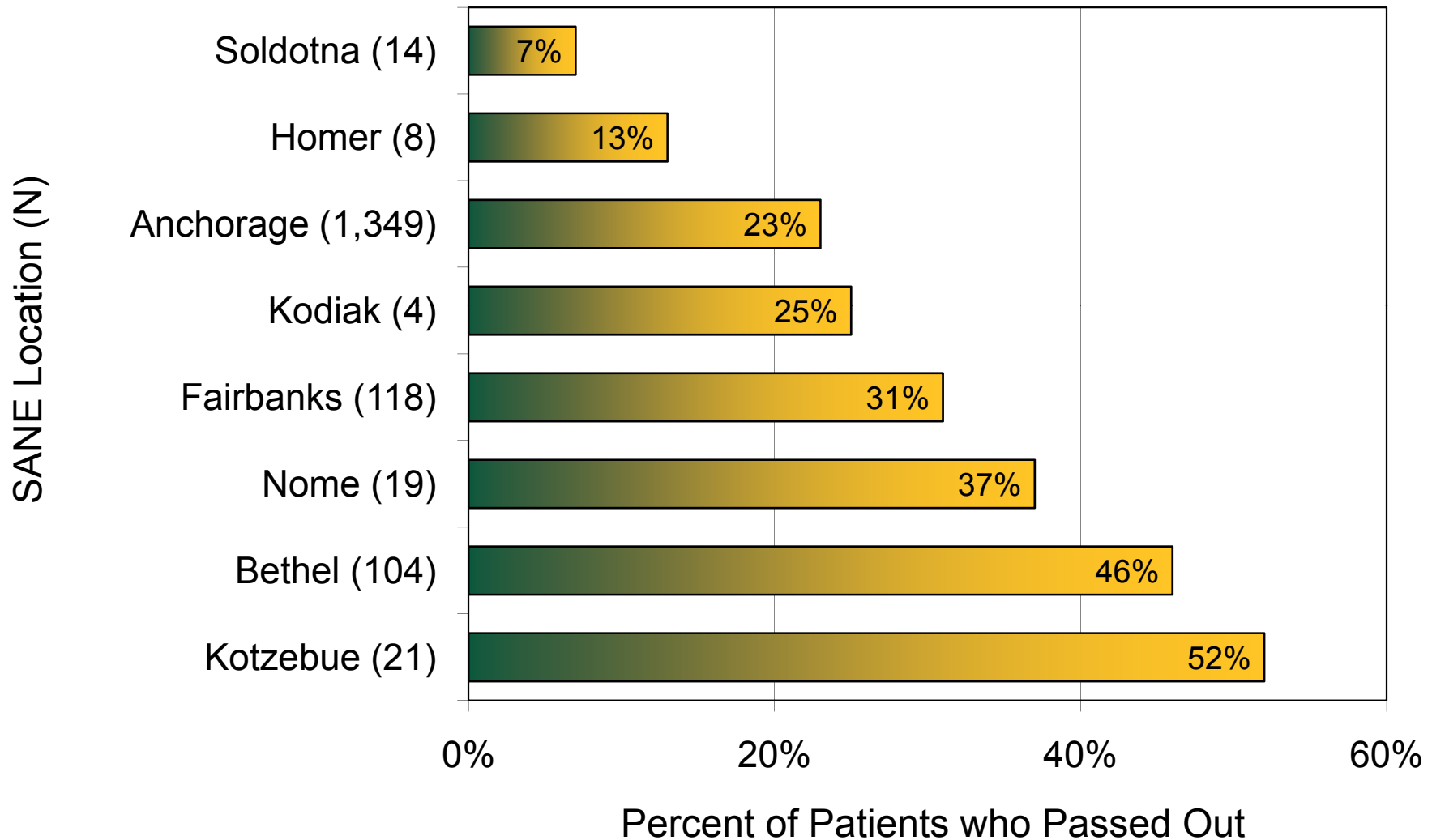
ALCOHOL USE OF PATIENTS



Source: AK SANE Study



INCAPACITATION OF PATIENTS



Source: AK SANE Study



DEPARTMENT OF LAW STUDIES

**Sexual Assault Case
is Reported
to Law Enforcement**



**18 to 46%
are Referred**



**60 to 69%
are Accepted**



**78 to 87%
Result in a Conviction**



Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST Study



DEPARTMENT OF LAW STUDIES

**Sexual Assault Case
is Reported
to Law Enforcement**

**18 to 46%
are Referred**

**12 to 28%
are Accepted**

**11 to 22%
Result in a Conviction**



Source: AK SANE Study, APD Studies, AST Study



RESOLUTIONS BY GEOGRAPHY

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Bush	Non-Bush	Bush	Non-Bush	Bush	Non-Bush
Founded	76%	76%	82%	75%	71%	77%
Referred	66%	56%	70%	56%	62%	56%
Accepted	69%	50%	74%	44%	64%	55%
Convicted	81%	78%	76%	74%	89%	80%

Source: AST SA Study; significant differences in red; “Bush” is defined as off the road system



RESOLUTIONS BY GEOGRAPHY

	All Sexual Violence		Rape / Sexual Assault		Sexual Abuse of a Minor	
	Isolated	Not Isolated	Isolated	Not Isolated	Isolated	Not Isolated
Founded	76%	76%	82%	75%	71%	77%
Referred	67%	55%	71%	54%	62%	56%
Accepted	68%	51%	71%	47%	65%	54%
Convicted	80%	81%	75%	78%	86%	83%

Source: AST Study; significant differences in red; "Isolated" locations are defined as ones without a Trooper post



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

- **Enhancing local paraprofessional police presence (VPSO, VPO, TPO):**



3/13/09 graduation; photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers

- Reduces rates of serious injury caused by assault by 40%
- Increases likelihood of accepting cases for prosecution in sexual assault cases by 3.5 times



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

- **Strengthening local alcohol prohibitions**



Photo courtesy Alaska State Troopers, ABADE 2007

- Rates of serious injury from assault are 36% lower in dry villages
- Cases with alcohol use are less likely to be referred for prosecution
- Cases with alcohol use are less likely to be accepted for prosecution



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

- **Enhancing investigation capacity**

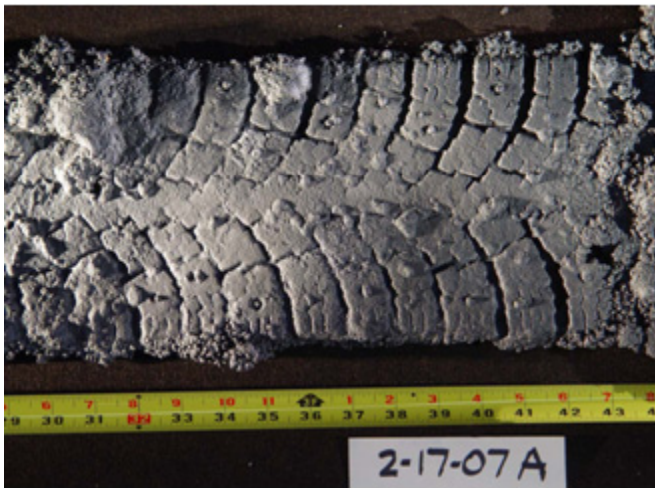


Photo courtesy Jim Wolfe, Journal of Forensic Identification, 2008, 58(4), p. 498. Sulfur cement cast.

- Likelihood to refer cases for prosecution is enhanced by more than three times when:
 - witnesses can be located and interviewed
 - time and resources are available to gain victim cooperation
- Having time to investigate and close cases also increases likelihood that cases are accepted for prosecution



EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES

- **Promoting access to sexual assault nurse examiners**



Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
Photo courtesy Angie Ellis & Tara Henry

- Medical-forensic exams more than double the likelihood of accepting cases for prosecution
- Documentation of non-genital injury is particularly important: increases likelihood of referral, acceptance, and conviction
- Offers the best standard of care



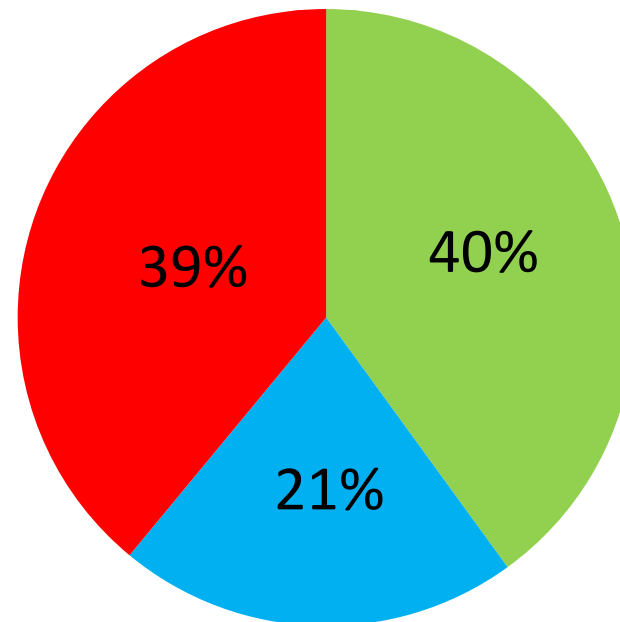
RECIDIVISM

- **Examined offenders released from Alaska Department of Corrections in 2001, tracked recidivism for three years:**

- Rearrested and convicted
- rearrested only
- Not rearrested

No difference between sex and non-sex offenders

No difference in re-arrest for sex crimes



Source: McKelvie (2008)

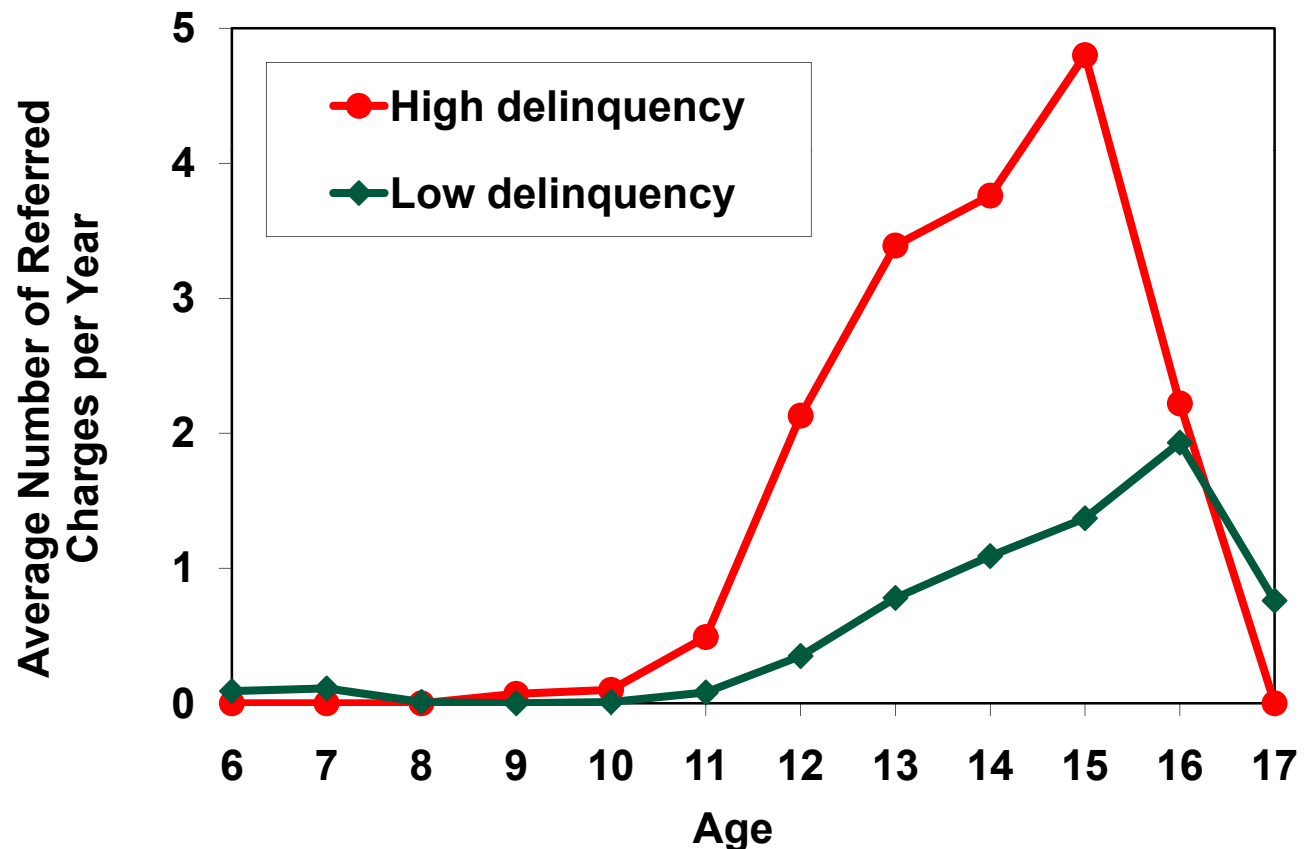


RECIDIVISM

- **Examined juvenile sex offenders released from Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice in FY05-07:**

Found two groups of offenders (high & low delinquency)

Both groups showed signs of desistance by age 17, even when controlling for detentions and institutionalizations



Source: Rosay & Everett (2009)



ADDITIONAL RESEARCH NEEDS

- **Statewide Victimization Survey:**
 - Need reliable and valid victimization estimates
 - Identify factors that hinder reporting
 - Evaluate criminal justice response
- **Statewide Surveillance System:**
 - Track all sexual assaults from report to conviction
 - Collect basic information from each report
 - Provide real-time information and explanations
- **Differentiate between high victimization and high reporting**



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